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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

April 14, 2010

To: Senate Committee on Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief, and Revenue

Testimony in favor of SB 637

Chairperson Erpenbach and Committee Members, thank you for hearing my testimony this morning.

Cancer is the leading cause of death by disease among U.S. children between infancy and age 15. Approximately 10,730 new cases of pediatric cancer were expected to be diagnosed in children 0–14 years of age in 2009.

Among the major types of childhood cancers, leukemias (blood cell cancers) and brain and other central nervous system (CNS) tumors account for more than half of new cases.

White children are more likely than children from any other ethnic group to develop cancer.

Although the incidence of invasive cancer in children has increased slightly over the past 30 years, mortality rates have declined by 50 percent for many childhood cancers.

The combined 5-year survival rate for all childhood cancers has improved from less than 50 percent before the 1970s to 80 percent today, and the 10-year survival rate is almost 75 percent. With the help of SB 637 the survival rate of childhood cancer, will continue to escalate.

Source for incidence and mortality data: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program and the National Center for Health Statistics. Additional statistics and charts are available at <http://seer.cancer.gov/>.

Incidence and mortality data reflect cancers in children 0–18 years of age.



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

DAVE HANSEN

SENATOR – 30TH DISTRICT

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

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Thank you Chairman Erpenbach and committee members for allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 637.

SB-637 would create an income tax check off for donations in support of childhood cancer research and treatment. Wisconsin currently has income tax check offs supporting prostate and breast cancer, multiple sclerosis and the Veteran's Trust Fund, among others.

All proceeds from taxpayer donations would be split evenly between the Medical College of Wisconsin and the UW Carbone Cancer Center to support childhood cancer research, treatment and

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in support of families coping with the disease. Both the Medical College and the UW would be required to report to the legislature and the governor on how these funds were used.

Cancer is a terrible disease, especially when it afflicts children.

SB-637 would allow Wisconsin residents the opportunity to help

children currently dealing with cancer and provide funding for

research in the hopes childhood cancer can be eliminated in the

future. I respectfully request you support this bill. I am happy to

answer any questions committee members may have.

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